

Message Text

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PAGE 01 SANTIA 01940 012243Z

72

ACTION ARA-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-03 H-02 INR-07 L-02

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R 012202Z APR 75

FM AMEMBASSY SANTIAGO
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 2709

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: CI, PINT

SUBJECT: PINOCHET CALLS FOR CIVILIAN ASSISTANCE

1. IN MARCH 31 SPEECH IN PUNTA ARENAS, PRES PINOCHET IS QUOTED IN SANTIAGO PRESS AS STATING: "COORDINATION OF ACTIVITIES BETWEEN THE PUBLIC AND PRIVATE SECTORS IS BASIC. THIS GOVERNMENT, DAY AFTER DAY, HAS TO LOOK MORE TO THE CIVILIAN SECTOR, /SINCE/ YOU FORM THE MAJORITY OF THE POPULACE. THIS HAS NOT BEEN DONE BEFORE BECAUSE, AS YOU WILL UNDERSTAND, THERE WAS INITIALLY A LACK OF CONFIDENCE /IN CIVILIANS/, AND SOME POLITICIANS WOULD TAKE ADVANTAGE OF IT FOR THEIR OWN PARTISAN ENDS."

2. COMMENT. MASS CIRCULATION "LA TERCERA" HEADLINED ITS REPORT OF PINOCHET'S COMMENTS "PINOCHE CALLS ON CIVILIANS TO FORM PART OF THE GOVERNMENT," A CONCLUSION NOT JUSTIFIED BY WHAT PRESIDENT IS REPORTED TO HAVE ACTUALLY SAID. PINOCHET DID ANNOUNCE AIM OF INCREASED CIVILIAN PARTICIPATION IN GOVERNMENT IN HIS SEPTEMBER 11, 1974 ANNIVERSARY SPEECH, BUT NO CONCRETE ACTION ALONG THIS LINE HAS TAKEN PLACE, NOR IS THERE ANY REAL INDICATION THAT IT WILL IN THE NEAR FUTURE.

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PAGE 02 SANTIA 01940 012243Z

3. PINOCHET'S REMARKS PERHAPS SHOULD BE INTERPRETED IN CONTEXT

SET BY GENERAL LEIGH'S MARCH 26 SPEECH (SANTIAGO 1867)
IN WHICH LEIGH DENOUNCED SELFISHNESS AND LACK OF SOCIAL
CONCERN AMONG SOME GROUPS IN PRIVATE SECTOR AND WARNED
OF GOVT MEASURES TO ENSURE "OBLIGATORY UNITY OF DEMO-
CRATIC FORCES." PINOCHET THUS APPERS TO BE SAYING NOT
THAT MORE CIVILIANS SHOULD ENTER THE GOVERNMENT, BUT
THAT THEY SHOULD COOPERATE WITH THE GOVERNMENT AS
PRIVATE CITIZENS WITH AIM OF WORKING TOGETHER IN COMMON
NATIONAL EFFORT.

POPPER

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